

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 5310

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON US SECURITY TIES TO KOREA

REF: STATE 091052

1. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF APRIL 21 TOKYO SHIMBUN STORY REPORTED IN SEOUL'S TONGA ILBO FOLLOWS. AS SOON AS TRANSLATED, WE WILL CABLE SANKEI SHIMBUN'S ARTICLE, IF IT VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY FROM ARTICLE BELOW.

2. QUOTE: IN THE MIDST OF THE MISERABLE SITUATION WHEREBY THE ANTI-COMMUNIST, PRO-AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS OF CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE FALLEN DOWN, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, THE US GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY STARTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW POLICY TOWARD ASIA, WITH A VIEW TO THE "POST-INDOCHINA" SITUATION. THE BASIC AIM OF THIS POLICY IS TO READJUST AMERICA'S FOREIGN COMMITMENTS, BASED ON THE NIXON DOCTRINE, ON A LARGE SCALE, AND TO SECURE NEW "IMMOVABLE BASE ROCKS", WHICH WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PROP UP US DIPLOMACY TOWARD ASIA. THE CONCRETE DIRECTION WILL PROBABLY BE CENTERED ON THE FOLLOWING THREE POINTS: (1) THE DEFENSE LINE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WEST PACIFIC WILL WITHDRAW TO A LINE CONNECTING JAPAN, THE PHILIPPINES, GUAM ISLAND, ETC.; (2) THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIPS WITH JAPAN WILL BE STRENGTHENED FURTHER; AND (3) EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO STABILIZE THE SINO-US

RECONCILIATION. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PRESENCE OF JAPAN WILL BE REGARDED AS A PIVOT IN REGARD TO SUCH AN APPROACH. IT IS ALSO HELD CERTAIN THAT OUR COUNTRY WILL SUFFER SERIOUS EFFECTS, ACCOMPANYING THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICA'S NEW POLICY.

3. EVEN AFTER THE US WITHDREW GROUND UNITS FROM THE INDOCHINA PENINSULA AS A RESULT OF THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT IN JANUARY 1973, IT HAS STILL REGARDED THE PRO-AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AS BREAKWATERS AGAINST THE COMMUNIST FORCES, AND HAS SUPPORTED THEM UNDER THE NIXON DOCTRINE CALLING FOR CONTINUING TO EXTEND MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID, INSTEAD OF SECURITY DIRECT INTERVENTION BY THE US FORCES.

4. HOWEVER, THE "DEATH OF THE DOCTRINE" HAS BECOME CLEAR, DUE TO THE RECENT COLLAPSE OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND THE THIEU GOVERNMENT'S CRISIS. THIS IS FORCING THE FORD ADMINISTRATION TO RE-STUDY US DIPLOMACY COMPLETELY IN THE FORM OF SECURING A FULL-SCALE WITHDRAWAL FROM INDOCHINA. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, IN HIS SPEECH DELIVERED ON APRIL 17, ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO "ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE AND BALANCED GLOBAL ROLE OF THE US THROUGH THE READJUSTMENT OF ITS EXCESSIVE FOREIGN COMMITMENTS." THUS, HE ENDORSED THE DIRECTION FOR THE NEW MOVE.

5. THE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE PROPOSED "WITHDRAWAL OF THE DEFENSE LINE, WITH JAPAN AS THE STARTING POINT, WILL BE DRAWN OVER THE WEST PACIFIC.

6. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE US IS FIRMLY MAINTAINING ITS POLICY FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE ROK, ON THE SURFACE. HOWEVER, FROM THE

JUDGMENT THAT THE ROK WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE REGARDED AS A COUNTRY, WHICH WILL DESERVE DESPERATE DEFENSE, AS A STABLE DEMOCRATIC FORCE, THAT COUNTRY WILL PROBABLY BE PLACED OUTSIDE THE NEW DEFENSE LINE.

7. THE VIEW IS STRONG THAT THE AIM OF STATIONING THE US FORCES UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE ROK IS PARTLY TO DEFEND JAPAN AND PARTLY TO TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES TOWARD ANY MILITARY ADVENTURE BY THE PARK ADMINISTRATION. MOREOVER, THE PHILIPPINES,, WHICH SHOULD BECOME A CHAIN IN THE LINK OF THE NEW DEFENSE LINE, IS RECENTLY SHOWING SIGNS OF QUITTING THE US. HOWEVER, THE US REGARDS IT AS A KIND OF GESTURE, AND IT IS NOT SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT IT.

8. AMERICA'S INTENTION TO STRENGTHEN ITS ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIPS WITH JAPAN WAS DEFINITELY SHOWN IN THE FACT THAT WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA RECENTLY VISITED THE US, THAT COUNTRY GRANTED A RE-CONFIRMATION, WHICH CAN ALSO BE SAID TO BE EXCEPTIONAL, AS TO ITS COMMITMENT FOR THE DEFENSE OF JAPAN.

9. THE INDOCHINA CRISIS HAS CAUSED THE FORD ADMINISTRATION TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF JAPAN AS A "CORNERSTONE IN ASIA." RECENTLY, HOWEVER, JAPAN HAS STOPPED REGARDING THE EXISTENCE OF THE US-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY AS BEING AS DANGEROUS AS IN THE PAST, AND AMERICA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM INDOCHINA HAS REMOVED ONE OF THE FACTORS FOR FRICTION BETWEEN THE US AND JAPAN. THEREFORE, (THE FORD ADMINISTRATION) IS STRENGTHENING ITS EXPECTATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE.

10. MOREOVER, IN REGARD TO THE STRENGTHENING OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS, THE STAND OF AMERICA IS SUCH THAT TAKING THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN JAPAN INTO CONSIDERATION, IT WILL NOT STRONGLY ASK JAPAN TO BEAR ITS MILITARY SHARE, AND THAT IT WILL LAY STRESS ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS, TO THE LAST.

11. IT IS OBSERVED THAT PROMOTION OF THE NORMALIZATION OF SINO-US RELATIONS WILL INEVITABLY BECOME STAGNANT TEMPORARILY, BECAUSE THE US HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO SHOW, AT HOME AND ABROAD, ITS ATTITUDE OF SUPPORTING TAIWAN, AS A REACTION TO ITS "FORSAKING" OF FRIENDLY NATIONS IN INDOCHINA. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE FACT THAT THE US REGARDS ITS RECONCILIATION WITH CHINA AS A BASIS FOR THE STABILIZATION OF ASIA.

12. WITH REGARD TO THE INDOCHINA CRISIS THIS TIME, THE FACT THAT THE US IS MAINTAINING A CALM ATTITUDE, IS DUE MAINLY UNCLASSIFIED

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TO ITS SELF-CONFIDENCE AS TO THE POINT THAT PIPELINE HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH CHINA. THROUGH HIS VISIT TO CHINA, SLATED FOR THE END OF THIS YEAR, PRESIDENT FORD WILL PROBABLY SEEK CHINA'S COOPERATION, IN ORDER TO PUSH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SINO-US DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND TO SECURE THE STABILIZATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AS A WHOLE, AFTER AMERICA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THAT AREA. END QUOTE.

13. IN ANOTHER FRONTPAGE REPORT FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, CAPTIONED "STRENGTHENING OF JAPAN'S RESPONSIBILITY FEARED", THE TOKYO SHIMBUN SAID: QUOTE: ACCOMPANYING THE FACT THAT AMERICA'S COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM INDOCHINA IS APPROACHING THE STAGE OF COUNTING DOWN, IT HAS BECOME MORE CERTAIN THAT

HODGSON

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9606

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

STRESS IN THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S NEW POLICY TOWARD ASIA WILL INCLINE TO A "SHIFT TOTHE NORTHEAST AREA," CENTERED ON JAPAN.

14. WITH THIS, OUR COUNTRY WILL PROBABLY INEVITABLY COME TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF AMERICA'S NEW POLICY FOR ATTACHING IMPORTANCE TO JAPAN. HOWEVER, THE STRENGTHENING OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS WILL NOT END IN ONE-WAY STRENGTHENING, AND IT IS SURMISED THAT THE JAPANESE SIDE'S RESPONSIBILITY WILL ALSO INEVITABLY BECOME STRONGER.

15. THE UNRELIABILITY OF THE ANTI-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS BECOME CLEAR, DUE TO THE CRISES IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM. THE EYES OF THE US, WHICH IS PAYING ATTENTION TO JAPAN AS A "SUPER-STABLE FORCE", ARE LIKE THOSE OF A YOUNG MAN, WHOSE LOVE IS NOT REQUESTED, SO TO SPEAK. IT SEEMS AS IF IT WERE NOT TRUE THAT IN THE DAYS OF THE FORMER NIXON ADMINISTRATION, JAPAN REPEATEDLY SUFFERED SHOCKS. EVEN FROM THIS STANDPOINT, IT MAY BE SAID TO BE NATURAL THAT POST-INDOCHINA-US DIPLOMACY IS ABOUT TO LAYITSGREATEST STRESS ON JAPAN.

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16. IN ITS NEW POLICY TOWARD ASIA, THE US WILL CALL FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIPS WITH JAPAN, FIRST OF ALL. ITS CONCRETE CONTENTS MUST BE STUDIED IN THE FUTURE. IT IS SURMISED, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE FIELD OF DIPLOMACY, THE US WILL CONDUCT STILL CLOSER DIALOGUES WITH JAPAN, AND WILL PROBABLY ELIMINATE THE GAP WITH JAPAN, WHILE RESPECTING THE INTENTIONS OF JAPAN, FOR EXAMPLE, AS TO ENERGY COUNTERMEASURES IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD.

17. FOR THE PRESENT, THE AIM OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS

TO PREVENT JAPAN FROM DEVIATING FROM THE TRACK LAID BY THE US, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE INDOCHINA CRISIS HAS DISCLOSED THE TREND FOR AMERICA'S POWER OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE TO WEAKEN.

18. FOR THE PRESENT, THEREFORE, IT IS OBSERVED THAT IN REGARD TO THE STRENGTHENING OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS, THE US WILL NOT SEEK THE MILITARY COOPERATION OF JAPAN, WHICH IT DISLIKES. IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY, THE US INTENDS TO PROMISE AGAIN TO DEFEND JAPAN UNDER ITS "NUCLEAR UMBRELLA", THUS PREVENTING JAPAN FROM ENTERTAINING A FEELING OF DISTRUST TOWARD THE US. IT IS ALSO SAID THAT THE US IS NOT EXPECTING JAPAN TO GIVE ANY BENEFITS TO THE US.

19. ALSO, IN REGARD TO MEASURES TOWARD INDOCHINA AFTER AMERICA'S WITHDRAWAL, IT IS SAID THAT THE US REALLY HOPES THAT JAPAN WILL PLAY A ROLE IN MAKING HANOI MODERATE THROUGH THE REALIZATION OF A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC APPROACH WITH HANOI.

20. WHEN VIEWED THIS WAY, THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S NEW POLICY TOWARD ASIA

IS ALL GOOD FOR JAPAN. HOWEVER, BY STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS WITH THE US, WHICH IS A SUPER BIG COUNTRY, WILL PROBABLY INEVITABLY BRING VISIBLE OR INVISIBLE PRESSURE TO BEAR UPON JAPAN.

21. FOR EXAMPLE, THE US SAYS THAT IT WILL NOT ASK JAPAN TO BEAR ITS MILITARY SHARE, BUT IF OUR COUNTRY IS LOCATED AS THE STARTING POINT ON THE NEW DEFENSE LINE, JAPAN'S COOPERATION IN REGARD TO SECURITY MAY BECOME A MATTER OF COURSE.

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22. THEREFORE, IT WILL PROBABLY BECOME NECESSARY FOR JAPAN TO ENJOY BENEFITS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICA'S NEW POLICY TOWARD ASIA AND ALSO TO TAKE AUTONOMOUS COUNTERMEASURES, MAKING USE OF ITS ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION. END QUOTE.
HODGSON

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